



BALTIMORE COUNTY
Commission for Women

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

*Historic Court House
400 Washington Avenue, Room 118
Towson, MD, 21204
and via Zoom*

Attendance: Rosalyn Berkowitz, Kara D. Beverly, Amy Blank, Zainab Chaudry, Sheila Derman, Robin Harvey, Alejandra Ivanovich, Sabrina Jones, Sharon Kehnemui, Cherie Peay, Audrey Potter, Brenda Savoy, Carmen Christiana (Liaison), Sarah Curry (Intern)

Absent: Michelle Greer (excused), Yvette Hicks, Cylia Lowe-Smith, Nitsa Stakias Zdziera (excused), Helene Waranch, Cheryl Brooks, Dr. Teresa Messler

Guest: Latasha Blackmond

Call to Order | Amy Blank, President

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm.

Adoption of the October 2022 Meeting Minutes | Amy Blank

The October 2022 Meeting Minutes were approved by common consent as presented.

Congratulations to Commissioners Robin Harvey and Brenda Savoy on their elections to the School Board!

MLAW Takeaways

- BCCW was well-represented at the MLAW Conference on November 12, 2022.
- Commissioners are asked to rank proposed legislative items to submit to MLAW.

***Recess to complete MLAW ranking survey at 6:10pm
Return 6:24pm***

Welcoming New Members to the Commission | Amy Blank

- All new Commissioners must submit a headshot and bio for distribution and posting.
- A welcome packet should be shared with new Commissioners and they should receive a formal orientation to the Commission.
- Actively recruiting new members to the BCCW.

In-person meetings | Carmen Christiana, Liaison

- The County may require the Commission to host in-person meetings going forward, with no virtual option available.
- Discussion about pros and cons of holding in-person meetings, as well as alternative options.
- The BCCW will continue with hybrid meetings through the end of 2022 and will implement any changes to the meeting format at the beginning of 2023.

BCCW Workgroups | Amy Blank

MOTION: Amy Blank moved that we conduct work group business during Commission meetings. **Motion passed (voice vote).**

Work Group Reports

- ***Economic Empowerment – Sabrina Jones.*** In contact with the economic advisory board to determine if it is addressing issues that are specific to women. The committee is exploring what “economic empowerment” means and how the Commission can best advocate for it.
- ***Strategic Communication – Cherie Peay.*** Developing a partnership between the 211 Center and the BCCW. Carmen will introduce BCCW to communications groups in the County. Discussion about how to make the 211 more user-friendly for those who most likely need to access it.

Exploring a New BCCW Initiative | Rosalyn Berkowitz, Vice President

- Amy Blank and Roz Berkowitz visited the Montgomery County Family Justice System, which houses the police, attorneys (including the State’s Attorney), cubicles for domestic violence programs, and interview rooms.
- Next steps: gather additional data, develop narrative and structure for the project, and engage County elected officials.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Entered Executive Session to discuss a sensitive external issue at 7:30pm.

Exited Executive Session at 8:05pm.

Next meeting:
Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:00pm.